



The Family of Saint Gerald
9310 S. 55th Court
December 17, 2023
Oak Lawn, Ill. 60453
3rd Sunday of Advent



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Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light. Fr. John Muir



St. Gerald's EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

YOUR KIDS DESERVE THE BEST EDUCATION.

Preschool and Kindergarten matter because they are the foundation of your child's education.

St. Gerald Early Childhood Program provides a safe, loving, "first school" experience for all our students. Where growth and development of the whole child is nurtured and supported and each child is seen as unique and loved by God. Children experience a rich curriculum through small/whole group instruction, free play, and centers. Special classes include library, gym, music and Spanish. Our Early Childhood Program readies preschoolers and kindergarteners for future learning. Since every child is unique, our curriculum creates the ideal early childhood experience. Technology is important in our world! Student learning is enhanced using interactive lessons on Vibe boards. Our teachers are highly qualified holding Bachelor degrees in Education and specializations in Early Childhood.

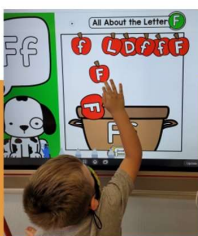
Half Day Schedule 7:50 am - 11:00 am | Full Day Schedule 7:50 am - 2:20 pm

Hot Lunch Program available for Full Day Students | Extended Care Available Before and After School



Preschool 3

- Available to children who turn 3 by Sept. 1st of the current year
- Class meets TUES, WED and THURS
- Optional MON and/or FRI



Pre-Kindergarten

- Available to children who turn 4 by Sept. 1st of the current year
- Class meets MON, TUES, WED and THURS
- Optional FRI



Kindergarten

- Full Day Kindergarten
- 1:1 Chromebooks
- Class meets MON thru FRI



To learn more about why St. Gerald is the right choice for your family visit us at school.stgerald.com and follow us on Facebook @StGeraldSchool

Request a tour (708) 422-0121 or school.stgerald.com/request-a-tour
St. Gerald School | 9320 S. 55th Court | Oak Lawn, IL 60453



What does the Convalidation of a Marriage Mean?

A convalidation is when a couple married outside the Church seeks to have their union officially recognized by the Church. For various reasons, A Catholic party or parties find themselves in a civil marriage or in a marriage that took place before a non-Catholic minister. In time, some seek to have their marriages approved or “blessed” by the Catholic Church. A convalidation involves the willingness of both parties to enter into a sacramental marriage.

Does this describe your situation? Were you married in a civil service and are a baptized Catholic? Were you married in a civil service, divorced and remarried? Have you wondered if you can have your marriage blessed and recognized by the Church? If you answered yes, to any of these questions feel free to start a conversation to get some answers!

A convalidation does not mean you need to plan a big wedding ceremony with all the frills. Actually, it requires some paperwork, possible attendance to PreCana and a meaningful ceremony in church to crown your marriage with the sacrament. St. Gerald can offer you a private ceremony or to be included in a Sunday mass group ceremony!

Feel free to contact any of the following staff members to discuss your situation:

Mrs. Laura Kowalski.....708-422-0234 (24) or lkowalski@stgerald.com

REMINDER

We will not have Confessions on Saturday, December 23rd or Saturday, December 30th.



Pray for the sick list



Frank Apicella-2
Baby Reese-2
Charles Barsevick-1
Robert S. Belin-1
Laura Bingenheimer-2
Susan Bingenheimer-2
Maria Cabarello-3
Cameran-1
Karen Cartolano-1
Ron Cerevic-4
Shirley Cerf-1
Adriene Cervantes-4
Mary Coffman-2
John Coleman-2
Maureen Collins-3
Erin Culik-2
Theresa Curtin-2
Jack Daley-1
Evan Danner-1
Patrick Davis-2
Donna D-1
Ron Dryier-2
Pat Earnest-1
Diane Gomez-4
Michael Griffin-3
Jackie Hokinson-1
Nelson Hathcock-1

Lucie Kavaliauskas-3
Mike Kelly-1
Michael Kennelly-3
Mary Klus-4
Laura Knapp-1
Catherine Kolbe-2
Leonard Kosacz-4
David Kowalewski-1
Katherine Kroeck-2
MaryAnn Krupa-3
Dorothy Kubala-3
Laverne Leahy-1
Joyce Lewandowski-1
Trish Lunn-1
Bernadette Magana-1
Monica Martancik-3
Gene Martyn-3
Maureen-4
Maureen C.-1
Mary McMullen-4
Joyce Meredith-4
Lillian Miskiewicz-4
Michael Moran-1
Catherine Motyka-3
Brian O'Callahan-3
Michael O'Keefe-2
Lucas Patrick-3

Carol Paprocki-4
Charles Petraitis-2
Andrea Pierzynski-3
Randy-1
Bruce Renz-1
Grace Ritter-4
Art Rivas-4
Milo Rusin-2
Savannah-4
Merideth Scaglione-3
Deirdre Scott-3
Ryan Smith-4

Linda Stearns-4
Joe Streit-3
Ann Thomas-3
Dave Tishka-1
Rita Tucholski-4
Cindy Venditti-4
Robert Walsh-4
John Wickman-4
Stella Wisniewski-4
Linda Wydra-3
Elizabeth Zalapi-1

In order to add a person's name to our Pray for the sick listing, the person that is ill or a relative must call. Please call the office at 708 422-0234 to add the name of the person that is ill. We will keep the names of the sick for 4 weeks. After 4 weeks we will clear the list. If you want to add yourself or a loved one on again please call the office.

Thank you.

Sunday Dec. 17**8:00am** Edith Fisher, Casey Mrozak**9:30am** Maria Panettieri, Aniano T. Razo,
Clem Hojnacki, Tor Salazar, Paul Tishka**11:00am** Louis & Anna Fanelli, Patrick Killen,
Wladstaw Gawlak, Jerome Litrenta,
Rosemary Bingenheimer-Rissler, Bertina Gallina,
Carolyn Krauss, James Wagner,

Decd Members of the HNS

Liv & Decd Members of St. Gerald Women's Club

Monday, Dec. 18**8:30am** LaVerne Franek, Clem Hojnacki,
Spec Int for Fr. Robert, Spec Int for Fr. Stan**Tuesday, Dec. 19****8:30am** Clem Hojnacki, Ceil Olejniczak,
Spec Int for Fr. Robert**Wednesday Dec. 20****8:30am** Clem Hojnacki, Greg Plesha,
Torricelli Salazar, Phyllis Tierney, Vidinish Fam.**Thursday, Dec. 21****8:30 am** Patrick & Margaret Griffin, Joe McPartlin,
Chester Zastawnik**Friday, Dec. 22****8:30am** Jacqueline Giebelhausen, LaVerne Franek,
Spec. Int for John & Margaret Morrison**Saturday, Dec. 23****5:00pm** Joseph R. Langan, Scott & Bill Javorski,
Mary McGuinness, Hannah Duffy, Lorraine Tepper,
Phyllis Duffy, Raymond Connolly, Foley Family,
Thomas O'Connor**Sunday Dec. 24****8:00am** Mildred Uidl, Edward Hanania,
Toni L. Pitt, Robert Tibbett**9:30am** Jacqueline Giebelhausen,
Stricula & Wasik Fam., Antonia & Leon Krzyszkowski,
Clem Hojnacki, Paul Tishka**11:00am** Donna Grillo, Antoinette Cataldo,
Stan & Jackie Walent, Colleen Nieminski,
Patrick Carmody & Fam., Charlene Green Kelly**The Stewardship of our Family of Saint Gerald**

12/3/23

to come

Masses

Dropped Off

Utilities

Give Central

Candles

Building & Ren

Total

\$

These figures include masses, give central and mailed in. Thank you for your continued support. Our parish family depends upon your support and cannot exist without you. When you are not able to be here we thank you for remembering your financial commitment to our faith community and each other.

MISSION STATEMENT**We are the Family of St. Gerald-**

People of God, brought together in the Eucharist as the Body of Christ. We gather as sisters and brothers with the Lord, welcoming and inviting others to journey with us to become more like Christ. We strive for spiritual fulfillment by building a community of love and service.

**Parish Office will be closed:**

Christmas Day 12/25

Tuesday 12/26

New Years Day 1/1/24

Martin Luther King Jr. 1/15/24

Presidents Day 2/19/24

Lord: In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce remind us of the warmth of your love. In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early remind us that in the darkness your light still shines. remind us that Easter is but a short time away.



Please see Christmas Eve Mass Schedule on page 6 of this bulletin.

Reading I

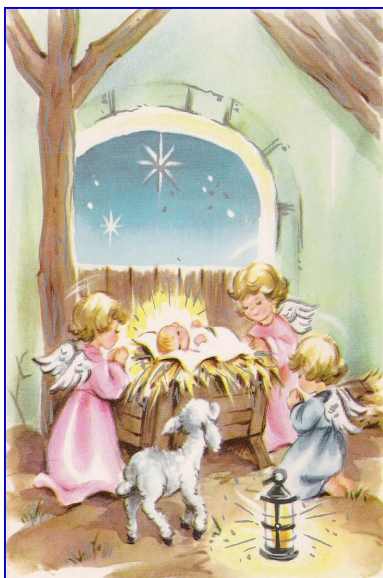
The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Reading II Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Gospel

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4:00pm Joseph Novak and Dorothy Shannon, Brendan Pierce, John Goetz, Tiffany Nielsen, Mary Ellen Kowalski, James Ball, David and Audrey Reardon, Len and Millie Kowalski, Anthony Michalak, Colleen Michalak, Tito DeLorenzo, Badon, DiGangi, and & Dolfonso Family, Joseph Giuffre

11:00pm Joseph and Therese Langan, Donna Grillo, Antoinette Cataldo, Stan and Jackie Walent, Colettte McGinnis, John and Rosemary Trolia, Coach Daniel Kelly



The Family of Saint Gerald www.stgerald.com Oak Lawn, Illinois

WEEK END LITURGIES

SATURDAY 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY 8:00, 9:30, 11:00

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

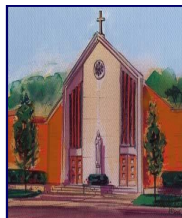
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:30AM

ADORATION IN CHURCH

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH 6-8PM

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 4:00-4:30 p.m.



Weddings should be scheduled six months in advance. Please contact the Wedding Coordinator.

Parish Office Hours

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9-5 Sat 9-12 Weds 11-5

Baptisms will be celebrated at the 11:00am Mass or at 12:30pm on Sundays. We will baptize on the first and third Sunday's of the month.

Requests for 2024 Mass Intentions

Please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office. We will try and honor as best as we can the dates and times that you have requested, if not possible we will assign the closest available date. Please note that individual mass intentions will be accepted on all days and for all masses with the following exceptions: Holy Thursday (03/28/24), Good Friday (03/29/24), Holy Saturday (03-30-24) and All Souls (11/02/24). All our deceased loved ones will be remembered in prayer on those days. In order to provide available open Mass dates for families who have recently lost a loved one, we ask that initially you limit your request to eight (8) Mass Intentions. After all our families have had an opportunity we will make the Mass Book available to those who wish more intentions. The suggested donation is \$15.00 per mass intention. We ask that you include the donation with this request form. We will contact you by mail with confirmation of your requests. When completing this form, please be sure to have a 2024 calendar on hand. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

Names of Intention Requested Date/Time Confirmed/Changed

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____



UPCOMING EVENTS

12.10.23 - Breakfast w/ Santa
 2.10.24 - Casino Night
 3.9.24 - St. Pat's Party
 3.23.24 - Boxing Show

SUMMER 2024
 St. Gerald Carnival
 Fr. Malcolm Golf Outing



MEETINGS

FRIDAYS DEC 8
@ 7:30 PM JAN 5
CHAPEL FEB 9
HALL MAR 8
 APR 12
 MAY 3
 JUN 7



***St. Gerald Church
Christmas & New Year's Schedule 2023-2024***

**Confessions--Wednesday, 12/20/23 from 6-7 pm
There are no confessions on Sat. 12/23 or Sat 12/30**

***Saturday, Dec.23, 2023 - 5 pm mass for Sunday Obligation
Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023, for Sunday Obligation
8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am Masses***

***Christmas Eve Masses, Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023
4pm and 11 pm***

***Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25, 2023
8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am Masses***

***Saturday, Dec.30th - 5 pm mass for Sunday Obligation
Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, for Sunday Obligation.
8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am Masses***

***Vigil Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Sunday, Dec.31, 2023
5 pm Mass***

***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Monday, January 1, 2024
9:30 am & 11 am Masses***



NONNA'S COMMUNITY Fundraising Event

Proudly hosted by



NONNA'S
PIZZA, PASTA & SUBS

Present this flyer when ordering at the location below and
50% of your purchase will benefit:



Thursday 🎵 Dec. 21st, 2023 🎵 4pm - 8pm

Nonna's Location:

9602 S Cicero Ave, Oak Lawn, IL

www.NonnasPizzeria.com



**MOVING FORWARD
BY GIVING BACK.**

**Flyer must be presented when ordering.
Not valid with any Gift Card or Coupon.**

ST. GERALD PARISH STAFF

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